CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

measuring cumulative mesh network viability based upon packet loss information calculated from packets transmitted from at least one of a plurality of nodes.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the wireless network is an ad hoc wireless network.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the packet loss information at the at least one server.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said storing the packet loss information comprises network protocol processing a received packet upon receipt of the received packet at the at least one server.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said storing the received packet at the at least one server comprises processing the received packet at a time period subsequent to the arrival of the received packet at the server.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein said storing the received packet at the at least one server comprises associating an identifier with the received packet prior to processing the received packet.

7. The method of claim 3 wherein said storing the received packet at the at least one server further comprises comparing the packet with a plurality of previously received packets to determine whether a duplicate packet had been transmitted.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the at least one server discards the received packet in response to detecting that the received packet is a duplicate packet that has been transmitted.

9. A wireless network comprising:

a plurality of nodes configured to at least transmit packets in the wireless network;

at least one server operably configured to calculate packet loss information in the wireless network during packet transmission from at least one of the plurality of nodes such that overall mesh network viability of the wireless network is measured in the wireless network; and

a store for storing the packet loss information.

10. The wireless network of claim 9 wherein the store for storing the packet loss information is at the at least one server.

11. The wireless network of claim 9 wherein the store for storing the packet loss information is operably configured for access at a future period of time.

12. The wireless network of claim 9 wherein the store for storing the packet loss information is operably configured for processing out-of-order packets.

13. The wireless network of claim 9 wherein the server discards the packets.

14. A wireless network comprising:

a plurality of nodes configured to at least transmit packets in the wireless network;

at least one memory medium, the at least one memory medium having an instruction set operably configured to calculate packet loss information in the wireless network during packet transmission from at least one of the plurality of nodes in the wireless network such that overall mesh network viability of the wireless network is measured in the wireless network; and

a store for storing the packet loss information. .

15. The wireless network of claim 14 wherein the store for storing the packet loss information is at at least one server.

16 The wireless network of claim 14 wherein the store for storing the packet loss information is operably configured for access at a future period of time.

17. The wireless network of claim 14 wherein the store for storing the packet loss information is operably configured for processing out-of-order packets.

18. The wireless network of claim 14 wherein the server discards the packets when duplicate packets are detected.

19. A memory medium comprising:

a set of instructions operably configured to calculate packet loss information in a wireless network during packet transmission from at least one of a plurality of nodes in the wireless network such that overall mesh network viability of the wireless network is measured.

20. The memory medium of claim 19 wherein the packet loss information is stored in a store at at least one server in the wireless network.

21. The memory medium of claim 19 wherein the packet loss information tracks packets regardless of an order that the packets are received at at least one server in the wireless network.

22. An article comprising:

a storage medium comprising machine-readable instructions stored thereon to:

calculate packet loss information in a wireless network during packet transmission from at least one of a plurality of nodes in the wireless network such that overall mesh network viability of the wireless network is measured.

23. The article of claim 22, wherein the wireless network comprises an ad hoc wireless network.

24. The article of claim 22, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon to:

store the packet loss information at at least one server for access at a future period of time.

25. The article of claim 24, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon to:

process a received packet upon receipt of the received packet at the at least one server.

26. The article of claim 24, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon to:

process the received packet at a time period subsequent to the arrival of the received packet at the at least one server.

27. The article of claim 24, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon to:

associate an identifier with the received packet prior to processing the received packet.

28. The article of claim 24, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon to:

compare the packet with a plurality of previously received packets to determine if duplicate packets have been transmitted.

29. The article of claim 28, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon to:

cause the at least one server to discard the received packet in response to detecting that the received packet is a duplicate packet that has been transmitted.

30. A system comprising:

a plurality of nodes configured to at least transmit packets in a wireless network;

at least one server operably configured to calculate packet loss information in the wireless network during packet transmission from at least one of the plurality of nodes such that overall mesh network viability of the wireless network is measured in the wireless network, the at least one server having an ethernet adapter for wired communications; and

a store for storing the packet loss information.

31. The method of claim 2 wherein mesh network viability is the cumulative packet loss in the ad hoc wireless network.

32. The method of claim 3 where said storing the packet loss information at the at least one server is for access at a future period of time.